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STATE FOR IO/UNP AND AF/S

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/23/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [UNSC](#) [ZI](#) [UK](#)

SUBJECT: UK RED LINES ON UN ACTION ON ZIMBABWE, POSSIBLE
STATEMENT BY NELSON MANDELA

REF: A. STATE 66915

[1](#)B. LONDON-IO/UNP EMAILS

[1](#)C. TELCONS

Classified By: Acting PolCouns Leslie Tsou, reasons 1.4 b, d

[1](#)1. (C) HMG has the following red lines for any UN statement on Zimbabwe, FCO Zimbabwe Desk Officers Ben Llewellyn-Jones and Jason Moore told us June 23 in response to Ref A:

-- the statement must emphasize that the Mugabe regime is no longer legitimate, since the will of the people of Zimbabwe was last expressed at the May 29 elections, which were won by the Movement for Democratic Change; and
-- there cannot be a continuation of the status quo.

[1](#)2. (C) The UK requests U.S. assistance with South African President Thabo Mbeki to achieve as strong a statement as possible, Moore said.

[1](#)3. (C) Concerning press speculation that UK officials might press Nelson Mandela, who arrived in London June 23 for a week of celebrations for his 90th birthday, to make a public statement condemning events in Zimbabwe, Llewellyn-Jones acknowledged PM Gordon Brown will meet with Mandela but said that HMG is weighing very carefully whether such an approach to Mandela would be effective.

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